

The Evening World.

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AN APPRAISAL.

CHAIRMAN LASKER of the Shipping Board charges that the Busches, in calling attention to the sale of intoxicating liquors on American ships, are "acting in the hope of creating a public revolt against Prohibition." The Busches admit they would like to brew beer again.

At the same time Mr. Lasker admits that the number of Americans who would desert "dry" American ships for "wet" foreign ones is so large that "the competition would be, from a profit operating standpoint, very greatly against the American ship."

In other words, the much vaunted public sentiment behind present Prohibition Law in the United States is too weak to be trusted three miles beyond the actual territory on which a tyrannous minority has fastened legislative clamps.

When American Prohibition sentiment is put to a simple, practical test involving the prosperity and permanence of American shipping, it is the weakness of that sentiment and not its strength that must be officially emphasized.

Chairman Lasker says he is "ashamed" to state the facts of which his experience has convinced him. But he states them, nevertheless. And his conclusion from them is that America's "new-born merchant marine" can't count on American enthusiasm for Prohibition to save it from the junk-yard if its ships go "dry."

This is significant light on the true depth and breadth of the popular will behind present Prohibition in this country. It cannot be claimed the appraisal is not expert and disinterested.

In charging a brewing concern with attempts to create a public revolt against Prohibition the Chairman of the Shipping Board is forced to a painful disclosure.

He has to show what ripe material for such revolt exists.

Honoring the flag yesterday was slightly complicated by the intrusive question: How far does Prohibition follow it?

CONTRACT EVASION.

EMPLOYEES of W. J. (Fingy) Conners are on strike in Buffalo.

The Conners shop for repairing railroad equipment was formerly a railroad shop. He took it over to help the railroads evade and nullify wage and working rules laid down by the Railroad Labor Board.

When Conners went into the business the railroads discharged men hired for the work. Conners employed them at reduced rates and under less favorable working terms. Conners and the railroad are able to split the saving. It is a perfect example of "sweating." The profit is the result of contract evasion.

The Conners employees deserve the full support of their union and of the public. Their objective should be to induce the railroad to go back to the previous arrangement.

In all fairness the Railroad Labor Board ought to come out with a vigorous statement of the facts and support the rights of the men.

A triumvirate to take the place of a sick Lenin does not sound very healthy for Soviet ascendancy in Russia.

MARKET DEMANDS IN THE MOVIES.

IN the widely discussed scenario contest conducted by the Chicago Daily News an interesting point is the age of the heroines prescribed by the writers.

The late twenties seem to have it. The "teens" and early twenties are "also rans."

This has generally been accepted as a tribute to the class once called "old maids"—or young matrons.

There is small doubt that there has been a change in the marrying age and the period of romance for Everywoman, but one factor in the scenario contest seems to have been overlooked in most of the comment.

Scenario writers are ambitious to market their products. They are also anxious to deserve the best possible cast for the production. Most of them have an eye to one particular favorite for whom the scenario is well adapted. Here, then, the commercial sense may interfere with exact judgment of romantic age.

The early feminine stars of the cinema have worn well, on the whole, but they are growing older. It would be invidious to name names, but this actress and that is no longer able to play sweet sixteen and look the part. Nevertheless, the managers count on the "fading" and the advertising

value of the name. They are searching for parts established stars can play. The market for heroines in the late twenties is better than for girlish parts.

On the stage a sophisticated audience may accept a mature Juliet. In the movies Juliet must look the part. So the scenario writers try to satisfy the demand for a role to fit the grown-up Juliet.

LIMITED.

THE Transit Commission dismisses as "futile, senseless and prejudicial to the public interest" the demand of the Hyman Board of Estimate that the Interborough Rapid Transit Company be ousted from its present position on the ground that it has violated its contract.

A receivership for the Interborough and a tangle of law-suits would be, as Chairman McAneny points out, the sole contribution such action could make toward a transit settlement.

The Transit Commission defines its chief purpose at the present time:

"To secure more service and not more litigation."

Nobody can say the Interborough subway service has not already shown substantial effects of that purpose.

If he could tie up the Transit Commission, Mayor Hyman would gladly tie up the whole transit problem in ten years of litigation and let the service go hang.

Thanks be, the Mayor hasn't the authority to do ALL the harm it is in him to do.

Apparently the facts in the Ward case must be obtained from anybody except the persons who know them.

INCOME TAX FIGURES.

AS a reminder, perhaps, that the second quarterly payment of income taxes must be made to-day, the Internal Revenue Bureau issued yesterday the summary of income tax statistics for 1920.

The most interesting feature was the comparison with 1919. This showed a large increase in the number of returns in the lower brackets up to \$5,000 and an equally sharp decline in the number of large incomes reported. The \$50,000 income was the dividing point. Above that the number of incomes decreased. Below that sum the numbers in each bracket increased.

The lower income brackets in general reflect the trend in wages, salaries and commissions. The higher group incomes are from profits and from investment.

If anyone could have foreseen this report two years ago it would have been a valuable guide to business. As it is, it merely reflects what we all know has happened.

It illustrates, for one thing, how wages and salaries tend to drag some distance behind the curve of business activity. When profits are rising wages do not follow immediately. When profits decline wages do not follow instantly.

One other feature demands the attention of Congress. The decided decrease in the upper brackets probably indicates heavy investment in tax-exempt securities. Normal taxes for 1920 exceeded the normal tax for 1919, but surtax receipts decline from more than \$800,000,000 to less than \$600,000,000.

Congress should investigate the price paid for the advantage in borrowing enjoyed by Federal, State and local Governments.

If you haven't paid half your income tax by midnight to-night, don't expect Uncle Sam to be jovial about it.

ACHES AND PAINS.

The distressing news that no whiskey is available to cure snake bites will lessen the popularity of copperheads in North Jersey and Rockland County, where they are plentiful. It was always hard to see any use in a snake and now the ophidian's last raison d'être disappears.

The annual flower show on the line of the New Haven Railroad from Mount Vernon to Stamford is getting under way. Millions of pink rambles are bursting into bloom. We doubt if there is any such display existing anywhere else in the world.

Dr. Scott Nearing, who has been visiting in Mexico, says the natives make up in colors what they lack in food. A red serape takes the place of beefsteak, for example. It would be a great comfort if the eye could more generally soothe the stomach!

According to the Washington figures, the rich are at last getting poorer and the poor richer. Perhaps the art of tax dodging is becoming more perfect among the higher-ups.

There is a fine hint to the Sheriffs of the South in the use made by the Jackson, Mich., jailer of tear bombs to repel a mob bent on lynching a prisoner. Each Southern jug ought to be furnished with a supply of forthright and Mark Antony's remark could be emblazoned on the wall: "If you have tears, prepare to shed them now!"

The prettiest girl in the Jersey State Capitol has been prohibited from saying sweet things to the Only One for half an hour at a time on the ground that the practice interrupts business. Why not broadcast her!

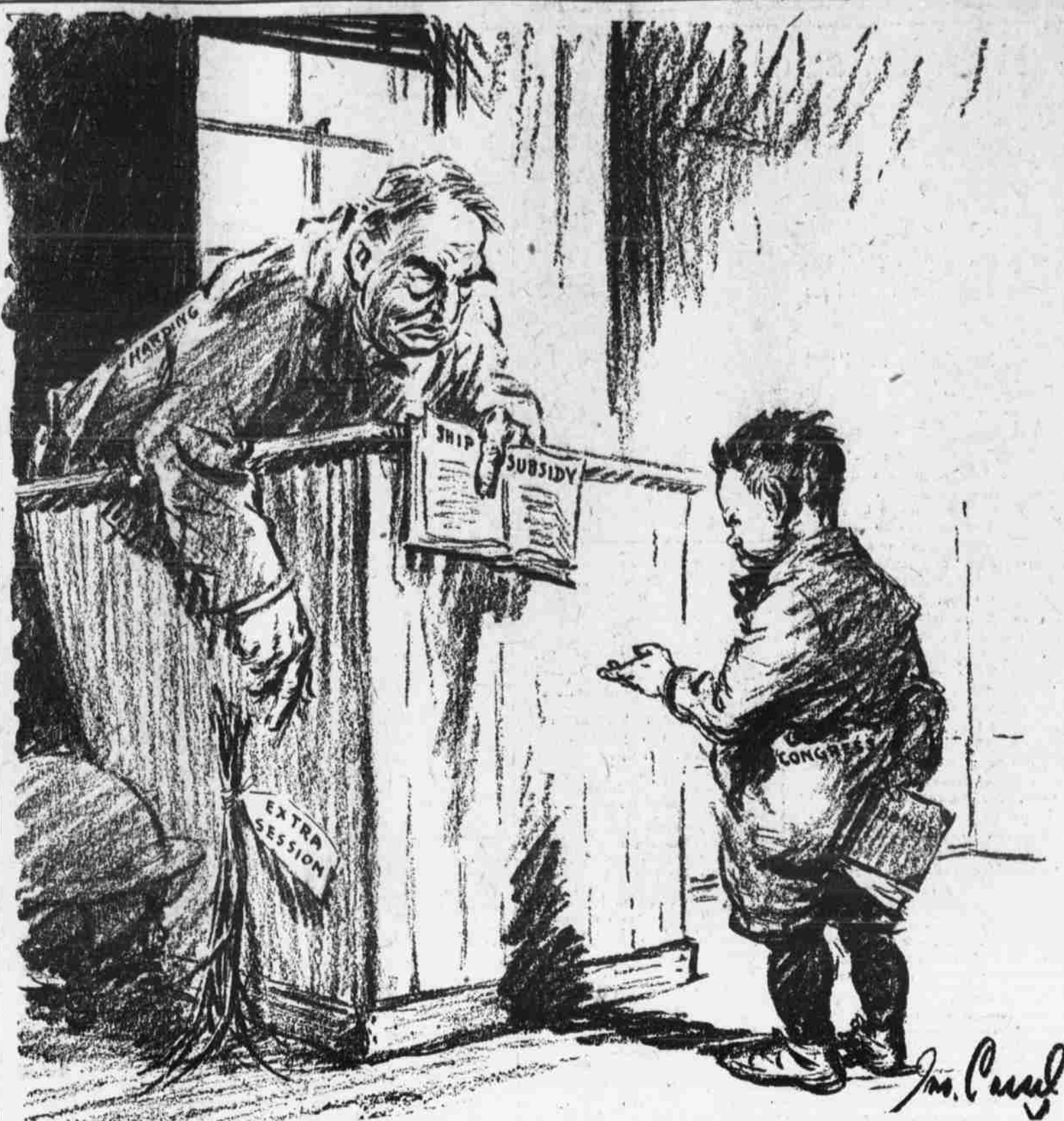
Chairman Lasker announces firmly that he will sell liquor on all United States vessels so long as his foreign competitors do the same. Hooley for a wet ship, a flowing sea and a wind that follows fast!

JOHN KEETZ.

"Or Stay After School"

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By John Cassel



From Evening World Readers

What kind of letter do you find most readable? Isn't it the one that gives the worth of a thousand words in a couple of hundred? There is fine mental exercise and a lot of satisfaction in trying to say much in few words. Take time to be brief.

Richmond Transit.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

Now that so much attention has been given to the transit lines in New York and Brooklyn, is it not about time some attention were given to the Richmond trolley line on Staten Island?

We have suffered long enough, riding in the Hyman garbage cans, which are always in a very unkept, filthy, foul-smelling condition. The windows never washed, so that one can see out when they are closed, not to say anything about the inconvenient boat connections. Give us the old line back again, even with an .8 or 10 cent fare. Then we can ride like human beings should.

A. J. CATTLE.

Staten Island, June 10, 1922.

Toward a "Habitable World."

To the Editor of The Evening World:

The general public is greatly indebted to your newspaper and to Miss Sophie Irene Loeb for the showing you are making against the gas companies in New York City. This graft has been going on for years with none to molest or make afraid, in consequence of which thousands have suffered and gone down to death from the effects of the bitter cold in this northern latitude.

Miss Loeb has gone into the subject in a thorough manner and from her talk at the City Hall on the evening of the 5th inst. she showed she is an able adversary of the hoary gas company. I was glad to see she was followed by H. H. Edgerton, an expert in the gas business, who corroborated her every statement. Keep up the good work, and in time this may get to be a habitable world, despite the reactionaries.

JOHN THORPE PRICE.

Inwood, L. I., June 10.

Open the Lawns!

To the Editor of The Evening World:

A remedy should be found by our self-praising public officials who are not at all concerned in the people's infelicity despite their bogus profession of interest in the people's—what people?—welfare.

Permit me to offer a suggestion tending to relieve said shortage: Let the City of New York open the lawns of all the parks to the public, and let efficient municipalities who solved the problem in this manner last summer and at no cost to taxpayers. Charge a reasonable fee to those who can afford to defray the expenses incurred in helping those who may not have the means to purchase tent, etc. By the end of September a great many houses now in course of construction would be completed and ready for occupancy by the happy and grateful lot of good men, women and children who have enjoyed the hospitality of the greatest city in the world.

This scheme can be worked out to perfection, but, as I have herein stated, our Mayor is at present engaged in the emanation of a sort of mud-blasting oratory which, aside from the originality of the vituperations, means nothing, therefore I am afraid there is no relief in sight from that source.

New York, June 10, 1922.

On the Bonus.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

Your anti-bonus propaganda would be a great deal more effective providing it were American instead of English. Using the taxpayers and wounded soldiers as your shield to defeat the Soldiers' Bonus Bill facilitates its passage, because statistics show that all bonus legislation brought up for public referendum was passed overwhelmingly by the people, and every one outside of public institutions is a taxpayer either directly or indirectly.

The greatest bonus advocates are wounded soldiers because they have not forgotten that when they were rendered incapacitated on the field of battle it was their able-bodied comrades who applied first aid, protected them from exposure, and saw that they were immediately transferred to the rear for proper treatment. Both illustrations prove conclusively that your anti-bonus bunk is less than mediocre.

JOHN A. BAKER.

New York City, June 9, 1922.

Nolsey Street Cars.

To the Editor of The Evening World:

I am a resident of 104th Street, between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues, and to tell you that the noise of the 116th Street crosstown cars is enough to drive one crazy is not a bit of exaggeration. I think they must put all the derelict cars on that line, as they grind with their flat wheels and loose parts. One car in particular, No. 1680, has had something loose and rattling on it for over a month.

Of course the huge joke of the whole thing is that they run cars frequently in order to accommodate one or two passengers. I have counted the passengers in the cars as they pass the door and have marvelled at the company's generosity in the number of cars they run. It is too bad they don't donate a few of the rattling old cars to Amsterdam Avenue or some of the other lines where one stays for hours waiting for a car.

A RESIDENT.

New York, June 13, 1922.

UNCOMMON SENSE

By John Blake

(Copyright, 1922, by John Blake.)

STARTING NEAR THE TOP.

Read history, even though it is only an outline of it, and you will never complain of your start in life.

You who were born in this particular country are really starting very near the top.

The wisdom of thousands of years—the brain development that ages have been required to build—are yours at the beginning.

You have the advantage of all the knowledge that men have ferreted from nature, of all the thought that centuries of reflection have put into their brains.

Your mind is a machine that is well along toward completion. It is a machine which, if you control it and keep it healthy, will do for you what would have been utterly impossible for the mind of the man of the early centuries of civilization to do.

You begin with a saving of countless centuries of time that has been spent by others in gaining experience and storing away learning and in deriving wisdom from them both.

You live in a time when your bodily health is practically insured by medical skill—when you can employ one man to look after your teeth and another to see that your circulation is what it ought to be, and a third to warn you of all the hidden enemies to your physical well-being.

Within a short distance from every man are institutions where the wisdom of the world is stored, with intelligent and able men to show you where to find it, and what to do with it when you have transferred it to your own brain.

All over the world people are toiling to provide you with the food that nourishes your body and the clothing that keeps it warm and with the materials that make the comfortable habitations in which you dwell.

The meanest city tenement is a far more agreeable place to live in than was the dirty old castle that housed the robber baron.

You have a race to run, of course. Life is not going to be easy, and no one is going to pick you up and set you down the victor of the winning line.

But the past ages have picked you up and set you well toward the top, and you are a pretty sorry creature if you do not finish what is left of the climb without grumbling that you never had a chance.

"That's a Fact"

By Albert P. Southwick
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Il Zingaro (meaning "the Gypsy") was a sobriquet bestowed on Antonio de Solario, a celebrated painter of the fifteenth century.

The Patriarch of Ferney was a name given to Voltaire (1694-1778), the French philosopher, of whom Thomas Carlyle said, "Voltaire is the eighteenth century," because he re-

tired to the village of Ferney, near Geneva, Switzerland, where he produced much of his work.

"A tinker's dam" is a wall of dough or of soft clay raised around a spot which a plumber, in repairing, desires to flood with solder. This material can only be used once and therefore is considered of trifling usefulness.

The original "Censor" was probably Spurius Maelius Tarpia, a famous critic of the Augustan Age, of Rome. He sat in the temple of Apollo with four colleagues to judge the merit of theatrical productions before they were acted in public.

Unwieldy China

By Maubert St. Georges

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THE UNDERLYING FACTOR.

To those who have not an intimate knowledge of China the very name brings forth a conglomerate vision of contradictions. An ancient civilization for instance, and yet a country in which the murder of girl infants, the selling of children, smuggling, begging, banditry, murder, plague, war and famine seem to be perfectly ordinary events.

These things are indeed quite common, but they have a reason for their existence, and that is, the fact that the food supply is insufficient for the needs of the population. Before this simple statement all other questions whether of politics, business or any of the things that continually attract our attention to China must necessarily pale into insignificance.

For centuries an unnatural equilibrium has been maintained between the population and the food supply by wholesale infanticide and by the fatalistic acceptance of pestilence and famine. For that matter natural calamities such as floods and earthquakes or a civil war have been accepted thankfully as they accomplished swiftly what would otherwise be left to starvation and disease.

The whole life of the Chinaman throughout the history of the country consists of one long, bitter struggle to secure enough food to live on. Under these conditions, especially where the duties of the Government consist of tax-collecting only, an element is bound to rise forced by hunger to prey upon the more fortunate and who become the pirates and robbers that infest the country. To these a war or a revolution means an excuse to loot cities, and it is from this element that the armies that continually rack China with civil war are drawn.

It would seem that this should be the problem that would be faced by those that had the welfare of China at heart. Yet last year, almost unnoticed amidst the publicity given to the ambitious of self-seeking politicians and generals, there occurred a famine which, in spite of the millions of lives it cost, did not for one moment distract the people from their petty struggles as Northerners or Southerners, as Republicans or Monarchists, as civilians or soldiers.

China has by far the largest proportion of farmers in the world, and these by centuries of experience have developed a system of intensive cultivation unequalled in any other country in Asia. Scientific farming, as we understand it, might perhaps help to solve the problem, but how long will it be before the small Chinese farmer can be persuaded to use machinery?

Yet something must be done. Surrounded by deserts, oceans and driven away by pestilence and legislation, emigration is impossible. On the other hand, obeying the behests of Confucius, who said that the highest duty of man is to have posterity, the Chinese are constantly increasing their population by the practice of polygamy and of minor marriages. It would appear that the only remedy possible is to strive to educate the opinion as to the calamities that must result from the continuation of such customs.

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT WORD?

178.—SOMERSAULT.

It may seem strange that the ancestors of the English part of us should have had to borrow from the French the word for so simple a circus trick as making a somersault. But they borrowed it from the French, and the French had borrowed it from their elders in civilization—and circus stunts—the Italians.

The English word is a corruption of the French *soubresaut*, and the French word in its turn is a literal translation of the Italian *"sopra salto"* ("sopra," above, and "salto," a leap).

The reason why both the French and the English, juniors in civilization, borrowed the Italian word is that the Italians were the originators of circus tricks as we know them. The first circus in Europe was undoubtedly the Coliseum at Rome, with its collection of "strange people" and stranger wild animals. Thus, the spiritual ancestor of the "Greatest Show on Earth" was the Coliseum at Rome.

WHOSE BIRTHDAY?

JUNE 15—EDWARD HAGERUP GRIGG was born at Bergen, Norway, on June 15, 1843, and died Sept. 4, 1907. His musical education began at the age of six, when his mother, realizing that he had musical tendencies, began giving him lessons on the piano. After completing a course of study at the Leipzig Conservatorium he returned to Bergen, where he delighted the Norwegians with his compositions. The people recognized their own folk songs in his works, and induced the Government to grant him a pension that he might continue his studies in Rome. As a composer Grigg is best known for his songs, which are full of spirit and of a strange, wild charm. The most famous of his songs used in concerts are "Ich Liebe Dich" and "Solveig's Lied." His greatest composition is no doubt the incidental music written for Ibsen's drama, "Peer Gynt."